

Appln. No.: 10/015,464
Amdt. Dated August 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated July 12, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1 -2, 4 ,6- 18 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Alden US Patent Application Publication 2003/0072464.

The Examiner stated the following in page 2 of the July 12, 2005, Final Rejection: "As per claim 1, Alden discloses an incoming mail monitoring system, said system comprises (abstract); a data base that stores unique information affixed to mail (abstract, paragraph 17, fig's. [sic] 3-9); a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique information contained on the mail after the mail has been delivered to the recipient (abstract, paragraph 17, fig's. [sic] 3-9); and a data center that receives information stored by the data base and the recipient's units to identify the mailer to the recipient and assess the possibility of the presence of life-harming material in the mail (abstract, paragraph 17, fig.'s. [sic] 3-9)".

Alden's abstract reads as follows:

"In a preferred embodiment, a network-based hardcopy mail scanning system to enable a mail recipient to view virtual images of their mail prior to physically receiving said mail. Unwanted mail from unknown origins can be discarded remotely by the mail recipient prior to actually receiving or touching the hardcopy mail. Thus the mail recipient is insulated from contact with potential letter bombs, biological agents, and chemical agents distributed by terrorists through the US or international postal systems. The process includes a means to digitize an image of hardcopy mail intended for a mail recipient, a database to store the digitized image, a scanning service computer connected to said database. Said scanning service computer and a mail recipient computer are interconnected by a computer network. The scanning service computer communicates images of hardcopy mail (addressed for delivery to the mail recipient to the mail recipient computer via the computer network. The mail recipient can elect to accept mail for receipt or to reject mail which is then destroyed. By virtually selecting what mail to accept and discarding the rest, the recipient can discard mail from unknown origins prior to ever physically handling it."

Paragraph 17 of Alden reads as follows:

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"[0017] FIG. 3 is a flowchart describing hardcopy mail interception at the home mailbox of the present invention. The present invention provides a mail scan service 49. In this illustration, the mail scan service is intercepting the intended recipient's 55 mail at his home mail box 47. The 49 scans (records a digital image) of the mail which it provides electronically over the internet, thereby enabling the intended recipient to virtually view the mail prior to receiving it. Internet communication channel between 49 and 55 is indicated by a dotted line. The 55 elects to accept or to reject each specific mail article. Rejected mail 51 is discarded by the 49 and accepted mail 53 is routed to the user by the 49. Thus the user of the scanning service receives and personally handles only the mail that he wishes to and discards the unwanted mail without ever having handled it. This reduces potential for exposure to explosives, biological agents, and chemical agents distributed by terrorists."

Alden does not disclose a postal indicia. In fact, in Fig. 9, Alden shows what appears to be a cancelled 34 cents U.S. postage stamp in the upper right hand side of the image of envelope 175. Thus, Alden does not disclose or anticipate the following elements of claim 1 namely, a data base that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia after the mail has been delivered to the recipient, and a data center that receives information by the database and the recipient's units to identify the mailer to the recipient and access the possibility of the presence of life- harming material in the mail.

Claim 3 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden and further in view of Bobrow, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0079371).

The Examiner stated in page 5 and 6, of the July 12, 2005 Final Rejection the following: "*Bobrow et al. discloses a mailer's unit that communicates with the data base and stores in the data base the time and date that the postal indicia was affixed to the mail (storing time and date) (paragraph 133, fig's. [sic] 2 & 4).*"

Paragraph 133 of Bobrow et al. reads as follows:

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"[0133] Swipes 1114, 1116, and 1118 specify the date and time of the event. Swipes 1110, 1112, 1122, and 1124 serve to annotate the event. The address is set forth in swipes 1120, 1122, and 1124 – this information can remain part of the annotation or can be extracted by the system as described below. Note that this further information can be displayed in a hierarchical fashion, concealing details until needed. Moreover, in one embodiment of the invention, the entire announcement of FIG. 11 (or at least an additional portion thereof) is scanned and stored as an image in the database 310 (FIG. 3) in addition to the information extracted and used as an event annotation as set forth above. This approach has the advantage that additional information in the document (such as the bride's name, for example) is accessible and can be made available, if necessary, even if it is not expected to be needed at the time the key data items are extracted."

Alden discloses the following in paragraph 20:

" Fig. 6 is a flowchart describing hardcopy mail scanning performed by an office mail processing system. Many buildings use internal mailroom personnel to distribute mail through out the building, the present invention can be used at the building level as well. After the postal service 93 delivers mail to office mail processing system 95 the office mail service provides a mail scanning service (digital images of the mail are created). An intended receiver 105 is given access to the digital images via the intranet (indicated with dotted line) which interconnects the 97 computer and the 105 computer. Also over the intranet, the 105 sends elections to accept or reject each mail article to the 97 computer. The office mail processing system then delivers the only the accepted mail to the 105 and discards the rejected mail. Thus the user of the office mail scanning service receives and personally handles only the mail that he wishes to and discards the unwanted mail without ever having handled it. This reduces potential for exposure to explosives, biological agents, and chemical agents distributed by terrorists."

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Alden's mail processing 95 is used after the postal service delivers mail to a building so that other users of the mail scanning service receives and personally handles only the mail he or she wishes to and discards the unwanted mail without ever handling it.

In the invention claimed by Applicants in Claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon the receptacles are located at the point where the mailer enters the mail into the postal system and data is used to determine if the mailer is permitted to enter mail in the receptacle. Thus, Applicants claimed invention is able to access the likelihood that the mail containing life harming material is determined before the mail is delivered. Thus, The post may be able to remove mail from the mail stream at its entry point to the mail stream before it causes human harm and/or causes extensive property damage. Hence, neither Alden nor Bobrow taken separately or together discloses anticipates the invention claimed by Applicant.

Claim 5 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden, and further in view of Rangan et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0034055.

Paragraph 91 of Rangan et al. reads as follows:

"[0091] In an alternative embodiment gatherer 67 may be implemented as a client application installed on a user's PC. In this embodiment, a user would not be required to supply log-in or password codes. Summarization scripts may be sent to the client software and templates may be automatically created with the appropriate scripts using log-in and password information encrypted and stored locally on the user's machine."

Neither Alden nor Rangan, taken separately or together, discloses a data base that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia after the mail has been delivered to the recipient.

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Claim 19 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden in view of Brookner (U.S. Patent No. 6,842,742).

Brookner discloses the following in lines 27-39 of col. 2:

"In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a greatly improved system providing early warning preemptive postal equipment replacement. According to the invention, it is provided that selected performance parameters of the postal equipment are monitored and compared against predetermined operational boundaries. The monitoring gives an indication of the overall system performance. If the system performance goes outside of operational boundaries, or changes significantly, replacement can be scheduled with minimal inconvenience to the customer. Data from the old meter can then be orderly transferred to the replacement meter."

Neither Alden nor Brookner, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates the system claimed in claim 1, namely, a data base that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia after the mail has been delivered to the recipient.

Claims 20-22 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden and further in view of Ananda (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,731).

Ananda discloses the following in the abstract:

"The present invention is a system for providing secure access and execution of application software stored on a first computer by a second computer using a communication device while a communication link is maintained between the first and second computers. More specifically, the present invention is a secure software rental system. The system enables a user in a remote location using a personal computer and a modem to connect to a central rental facility, transfer application software from the central rental facility to the remote computer, and execute the application software on the remote computer while electronically connected to the central rental facility. When the communication link between the central rental facility and the remote computer is interrupted or terminated, the application software no longer executes on the remote computer. The application software stored on the central rental facility is integrated with the header software to provide a security feature of the present invention. the use of header software allows the user to execute the application software

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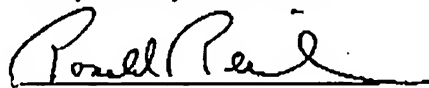
only while the user is electronically connected to the central rental facility continuously. In one embodiment, the rental software is an on-line postage metering program. In this embodiment, a user computer and a user printer, electronically connected to the PSD server and the USPS computer, constitute an on-line electronic postage meter. The on-line electronic postage meter allows a remote user to print postage using a local printer in a secure manner. A printed postage appears as a two-dimensional bar-code that includes a unique serial number, mail delivery point information, and the amount of postage.

Neither Alden nor Anada, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates the system claimed in claim 1, namely, a data base that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia after the mail has been delivered to the recipient.

Claims 1-20 have been provisionally rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over copending Application Nos. 10/015469. A Terminal Disclaimer was filed in Patent Application Serial No. 10/015,469 to overcome the double patenting rejection. A copy of the Terminal Disclaimer is attached hereto.

In view of the above, claims 1-22 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would he please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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